A

# CONFESSION of FAITH,

DELIVERED AT THE

# ORDINATION

OF

## Mr. THOMAS DAVIS,

## At *Reading*, September, 14*th*, 1768,

With References to Scripture-Proofs.

I. I BELIEVE that there is one only living and true GOD; who is infinite, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehenſible; a glorious Spirit, without Body, Parts, or Paſſions, * who was before all Things, and by whom all Things conſiſt. † I believe that in the Unity of the God-head there are three divine Perſons, equal in Power, Glory, and Eternity; GOD the Father, GOD the Son, and GOD the Holy Ghoſt, the alone Object of all religious Worſhip and Adoration. ‡

II. I believe the holy Scriptures of the old and new Teſtaments are the Word of God, and given by divine Inſpiration; § which is the revealed Will of God, and the only Rule of Faith and Practice. ‖

A III. I be-

* Jer. x, 10. Deut. vi, 4. Mark xii, 32. iThef. i, 9. John iv, 24. Ex. iii, 14. Job. xl, 7-9 Pſ. cxlvii, 5. Pſ. xc, 2. Mal. iii 6. James i, 17. Job xi, 7. Rom. xi, 36. † Col. i, 17. John i, 1-4. i Cor. viii, 6. i John v, 7. Mat. xxviii, 19. Heb. i, 3. ii Cor. ii, 10. Rom. ix, 5. Acts v, 3, 4. Iſa. xl, 13, 15. ‡ John, iv, 24. Pſl. xlv, 11. Rev. v, 12-14. § ii Tim. iii, 16. ii Pet. i, 19-21. ‖ Eph. ii, 20. John, v, 39. Acts xvii, 11. Gal. vi, 16.

III. I believe God did, from all Eternity, by the moſt wiſe Counſel of his own Will, unchangeably ordain whatſoever cometh to paſs, ** yet God is not the Author of Sin, nor is there Violence offered to the Will of the Creature, nor the Liberty of ſecond Cauſes taken away ††

IV. I believe that the Elect were choſen in CHRIST, before the Foundation of the World, to everlaſting Life, according to the Counſel of his own Will and good Pleaſure, as Veſſels made to Honour; without any Regard to their Faith, Works, or Performances, or Perſeverance, as Cauſes or Conditions moving him thereto, but his own Glory. ‡‡

V. I believe that the Covenant of Grace was made with CHRIST, and ſtands faſt with him for evermore, in Behalf of his People; in which a Saviour is appointed and provided, all ſpiritual Bleſſings given us in him, with their Grace and Glory, and their whole Perſons made his Care and Charge. |||

VI. I believe that there is a *real*, indiſſolvable, everlaſting Union between Chriſt and his Church, that he hath betrothed her to himſelf for ever, §§ and that this Union is the Foundation of the Communication of all and every Grace to their Souls, and without which there could be none communicated. *

VII. I believe that God, in the beginning, created the

** Eph. i, 11. Rom. xi, 33, 36 Rom. ix, 15, 18. Heb. vi 17. †† Acts, ii, 23. iv, 28. xv, 18. Pro. xvi 4. Deu. xxxii, 4. Hoſ. xiii 9 ‡‡ Eph. i, 4. i Theſ. i 4. v, 9. Rom. viii, 29, 30. xi, 5. Eph. i 6. Rom. ix 11, 23. i Peter, i, 20. Eph. i, 9 10. John, xvii, 6, 8. Rom. ix, 21. ii Tim. i, 9. Luke, x, 20. ||| ii Sam. xxiii 5 Pſ. lxxxix, 3, 28, 34. Iſa. xlii, 6. lv, 3. Eph. i, 3. John, vi, 37, 39. x, 28, 29 ii Tim. i, 9. Col. iii 11. Deu. xxxiii, 3. §§ Eph. i, 4. i Cor. vi, 17. John, xvii, 21, 22. Eph. v, 31, 32. Hoſ. ii. 19, 20. * Hoſ. xiv, 8. John, xv, 2, 5, 16. Rom. viii, 38, 39.

the World and all Things therein, visible or invisible, in the Space of six Days, and all very good. †

VIII. I believe that God made Man upright, in his own Image, with a reasonable and immortal Soul, capable of serving, glorifying, and enjoying God, yet subject to change or fall. ‡

IX. I believe that Adam was the natural and publick Head, Root, and Representative of all his Posterity; ‖ the Covenant of Works being made with him, and he, being left to the Freedom of his own Will, sinned against God, and all his Posterity sinned in him, and fell with him; and the Guilt of this Sin is imputed, a corrupt Nature is derived from him by ordinary Generation, and by Reason of it we are conceived in Sin, and brought forth in Iniquity, our carnal Mind is Enmity against God and all that is good, § and we are by Nature Children of Wrath, in love with Sin, under the Sentence of the Law, liable to Death temporal, spiritual and eternal, as the just Reward for Sin. **

X. I believe that the Son of God was set up from everlasting as the Mediator of the Covenant, and engaged to be the Surety of his People, †† and in the Fullness of Time really assumed our human Nature with all the sinless Infirmities belonging thereto, ‡‡ in which Nature he really suffered and died as their Substitute, in their Room and Stead; whereby he



† Gen. i. 1, to the End. Heb. xi, 3. Col. i, 16. Acts, xvii, 24. ‡ Gen. i 26, 27. Ps. viii, 5. Ecl. vii, 20. ‖ Gen. i, 28. Acts, xvii. 26. Gen. ii 17. § 1 Cor. xv. 22. Rom. v, 12. iii, 23. Eph. ii, 3. Job, xiv, 4. Psl. li, 5. John, iii, 6. Eze. xvi, 4 - 6. Rom. viii, 7, 8. iii, 10 - 12. Gen. vi, 5. Rom. v, 12, 14, 18. ** Luke, xv, 24, 32. John, v, 25. Eph. ii, 1. Rom. v, 12, 14, 18, 19. Heb. ix, 27. †† Pro. viii, 22, 23. Heb. xii, 24. Ps. lx, 6 - 8. Heb. vii, 22. ‡‡ John, i, 14. Gal. iv, 4. Heb. ii, 14, 16, 17.

made full Satisfaction for their Sins which Law and Juſtice required, and made Way for the Communication of all ſpiritual Bleſſings to our Souls, which we ſtand in Need of for Time and Eternity; who is the Prophet, Prieſt, and King, Head, and Saviour of his Church, and who of God is made unto us Wiſdom, Righteouſneſs, Sanctification, and Redemption; and there is no Salvation in any other. §§

XI. I believe that Chriſt died only for the Elect, and theſe only enjoy the ſpiritual Benefits of it. ‖‖

XII. I believe the Juſtification of God's Elect is only by the Righteouneſs of Chriſt imputed to them, and that it is God's own Act, without any Conſideration of any Work of Righteouſneſs done by them; * and the free, full Pardon of all their Sins, both original and actual, is only through the Blood of Chriſt, according to the Riches of his Grace. †

XIII. I believe that all thoſe redeemed by Chriſt are the adopted Sons of God, and ſhall be regenerated by the Spirit, ‡ effectually called and made willing in the Day of his Power, and becauſe they are Sons God ſends forth the Spirit of his Son into their Hearts, crying Abba, Father. §

XIV. I believe the Faith of God's Elect is a Grace given of God, wrought in the Heart by the Holy-Ghoſt, ‖ and known by its Effects and Fruits;

§§ Rom. iv, 25, i Cor. xv, 3. Eph. v, 2. i Peter, iii, 18. Ro. viii, 3, 4. x, 4. Iſa. xlii, 21. Ro. viii, 1, 33, 34. i Cor. 30. Eph. i 7. Acts, vii, 37. Pſ. ii, 6. Col. iii, 11. ‖‖ Mat. xx, 28. John, x, 11, 15, 16, 28, 29. John, x, 26. * Rom. viii, 33. iii, 28. iv, 6. v, 16-19. iii, 25. † Eph. i, 7. Col. i, 13. i John, i, 7, 9. ‡ Eph. i, 5. Gal. iv, 4-6. § Pſ. cx, 3. Rom. viii, 30. Iſa. xliii, 6, 7 Rom. viii, 15. ‖ Eph. ii, 8. Phil. ii, 12. Tit. i, 1.

Fruits; it hath the ſacred Trinity as the Object of Faith, his Word for the Rule of Faith, obeys the Commands of God, reveres his Threatenings, embraces his Promiſes, and reſts on Chriſt alone for Salvation; ‖ and this Faith is increaſed and grows up to a full Aſſurance of Faith through Chriſt, who is the Author and Finiſher of Faith. **

XV. I believe evangelical Repentance to be a Bleſſing of the Covenant of Grace, †† and the Fruit of Faith, that it produces a godly Sorrow for Sin, and real Hatred to it, not only as it is againſt God but becauſe it is of a defiling Nature, and contrary to the holy Nature of God; a feeling Senſe of which lays the Creature very low in the Duſt, and exalts Chriſt who was pierced for Sin, and hath put away Sin by the Sacrifice of himſelf. ‡‡

XVI. I believe that all thoſe, choſen by the Father, redeemed by the Son, ſhall be ſanctified by the Spirit dwelling in them; Sin is ſubdued, Grace is ſtrengthened, Faith increaſed, Love inflamed, and all by the continual Supplies of the Spirit of God, who worketh in and upon them according to his good Pleaſure. §§

XVII. I believe that all thoſe, juſtified by Chriſt's Righteouſneſs, called according to his Purpoſe, ſanctified by his Spirit ſhall infallibly perſevere unto the End,

‖Eph. i, 19. Iſa. xliii, 13. lxvi, 2. Heb. xi 13. ii Pet. i, 4. Heb vi, 18, 19. John, xiv, 15. i John, ii, 3. ** i John, iii, 14, 19. v, 13. Eph. iv, 30. Rom. viii 15. 16. Heb. xii, 2. †† ii am. xxiii, 5. ‡‡ Eze. xxxvi, 31. Zec. xii, 10. Jer. xxxi, 8, 19. Job, xl, 4. xlii, 5, 6. ii Cor vii, 9-11. Heb. ix, 26. §§ i Peter, i, 2. John, xvii, 17. ii Theſ. ii, 13. Ro. vi, 6, 1. i Theſ. v, 23. i Cor. iii, 16 Heb. xii, 14. ii Pet. iii 18. i Cor vi 11. Phil. ii, 13.

End, and ſhall be eternally ſaved, ||| being ſecured by the unchangeable Love of God, the Satisfaction, Merit, Life, Death, Reſurrection and Interceſſion of Jeſus Chriſt; † the indwelling of the Spirit, and the Seed of Grace in them, § the Decree of Election; the Perfections of God, God's Oath and Covenant, his many great and precious Promiſes: From all which I conclude that the Saints cannot poſſibly periſh. ‖

XVIII. I believe that God, by his Providence, doth wiſely govern all Things, from the higheſt Archangels to the meaneſt Inſect, in all their Actions, for his own Glory, ** but his particular and providential Care is over his Church and People, ordering all Things for their good. ††

XIX. I believe the Law of God is an eternal Rule of Righteouſneſs, and that which I deſire to love and delight in, after the inner Man, ‡‡ and to make it the Rule of my Life and Walk and Converſation while here; becauſe it is holy juſt and good. §§

XX. I believe that a Church of Chriſt is a Congregation of faithful Men and Women, walking together in the Order of the Goſpel, ||| in Subjection to Chriſt their Head, in Love one to another, and attending to all his Commandments. † A Church of Chriſt

||| John, vi, 39, 40. x, 28, 29. Mat. xvi, 18. Pſl. cxv, 1, 2. 1 Peter, i, 5. Jude, 24. Heb. ii, 13. Rom. viii, 29, 30. Jer. xxxi, 3. † Rom. viii, 38, 39. John, 17th Chapter throughout. Rom. viii, 34. § John, xiv, 16. 1 John ii, 27. iii, 9. ‖ Jer. xxxii, 40. Iſa. xliii, 7. Pſ. lxxxv, 10. xxxix, 28, 34. 1 Cor. i, 30. ii Pet. i, 4. Mat. xxiv, 24 * Heb. i, 3. Dan. iv, 35. Pſ. cxxxv, 6. Mat. x, 29-31. †† Eph. i, 11. Rom. viii, 28. ‡‡ Rom. vii, 22. Pſ. cxix, 97. §§ Gal. vi, 16. Rom. vii, 12. ||| 1 Cor. i, 1, 2. vi, 12, 13. Eph. i, 1. ii, 19, 20. Col. i, 2, 4. Acts. xi, 22, 23. viii. 1. ix, 31. v, 13, 14. † Acts, viii, 12. ii, 41, 42. Luke, i, 6.

Chriſt hath Authority from Chriſt to chuſe their own Officers; and it is the peculiar Prerogative of Chriſt the great Shepherd to qualify and ſend forth Goſpel-Miniſters; and thoſe qualified called and ſet apart by a Church of Chriſt, in his Name, have Authority to adminiſter all Ordinances according to his Word and Will. †

XXI. I believe Water-Baptiſm to be an Ordinance of the new Teſtament, appointed by Jeſus Chriſt, to repreſent his Death, Burial, and Reſurrection, ‡ and Believers are the only proper Subjects, § and Immerſion the only Mode. ‖

XXII. I believe that the Lord's Supper is an Ordinance of Chriſt, and to continue to the End of the World, and repreſents his broken Body, his poured out Blood, his dying Love, and our Communion with Chriſt and one another. **

XXIII. I believe it is appointed for Men once to dye, and that the Body ſhall return to Duſt from whence it came, and the Spirit ſhall return to God who gave it. ††

XXIV. I believe that there ſhall be a Reſurrection of the dead, both of the juſt and the unjuſt, ‡‡ and and that the dead in Chriſt ſhall riſe firſt, and reign with Chriſt a thouſand Years, and thoſe are bleſſed and holy; and then the Reſt ſhall be raiſed when the thouſand Years are finiſhed. §§

XXV. I be-

† Acts, vi, 3 4. Eph. iv, 11, 13. ii, Cor. x, 8. Acts, xiv, 23. i, Cor. xiv, 40. iv, 1, 2. Tit. i, 7. ‡ Mat. xxviii, 19, 20. Mark, xvi, 15, 16. § Mat, iii, 13-17. Acts, ii, 41. viii, 12, 36, 37. xvi, 31 - 34 40 ‖ Acts, viii, 38, 39. Rom. vi, 4. Col. ii, 12. ** Mat. xxvi, 26 - 28. i, Cor. xi, 23 - 26. †† Gen. iii, 19. Acts, xiii, 36. Luke, xxiii, 43. Ecl. xii. 7. ‡‡ Acts, xxiv, 15. John, v, 28, 29. Dan. xii, 2. §§ i, Theſ. iv, 16. i, Cor, xv, 52. Iſa, lxv, 17. ii Peter, iii, 13. Rev. xxi, 1. xx, 1 - 6.

XXV. I believe that God hath appointed a Day in which he will judge the World in Righteouſneſs, by Chriſt the Judge of quick and dead, ||| when the final Sentence ſhall be pronounced, Come ye bleſſed, or go ye curſed; theſe ſhall go away into everlaſting Puniſhment, and the righteous into Life eternal. *

THESE are Truths contained in the Word of God, the Faith in which I deſire to live, and in which I hope to dye; and by the Grace of God, and Aſſiſtance of his Holy Spirit, ſhall make the Subject of my Miniſtration among you. And to conclude, I have Need of your Prayers for me that what I know not he may teach me, † and after all have Reaſon to ſay, Lord, increaſe my Faith. Amen. ‡

Bleſſed be the divine Author of theſe precious Truths, for they have been delicious Food to my own Soul for many Years, and are as refreſhing as ever to this Day when I annexed theſe Scripture Proofs.

Feb. 2, 1776. ROBERT M'GREGOR.

||| Acts, xvii, 31. John, v, 22. * Mat. xxv, 31, to the End of the Chapter. † Rom. xv, 30, 32. ‡ Luke, xvii, 5.

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